IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2 and 17 have been amended herein. Claims 14 and 16 have been canceled herein. All of the pending claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 17 are presented below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing at least one sample for a method of detecting and quantifying the total amount of HIV ~~of a~~ nucleic acid ~~of interest~~ present in the at least one sample, said process comprising:

a) administering at least 100 microliters of the at least one sample to a piece of filter paper capable of absorbing the at least one sample, wherein the absorption results in at least one spot of the at least one sample on the filter paper,

b) drying the filter paper having the absorbed at least one spot of the at least one sample,

c) storing the filter paper for at least one week,

~~e) excising~~ d) excising the at least one spot of the at least one sample from the surrounding filter paper,

~~d) extracting~~ e) extracting nucleic acid from the at least one spot of the at least one sample with a chaotropic nucleic acid isolation solution,

~~e) detecting~~ f) detecting HIV nucleic acid ~~of interest~~, if present, and

~~f) quantifying~~ g) quantifying the total amount of the HIV nucleic acid ~~of interest~~ present in the at least one sample.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least 200 µl of the at least one sample is administered to the filter paper.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein at least 250 µl of the at least one sample is administered to the filter paper.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least two samples are administered to the filter paper.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, further comprising administering a known amount of a reference nucleic acid to the filter paper.

8.-16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claim 14~~ claim 2, wherein the HIV nucleic acid ~~of interest~~ is from HIV-1.

18.-35. (Canceled).